

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 EUR-25 AGR-20 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01

USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 L-03 H-03 AID-20 NSC-10 CIEP-02

SS-20 STR-08 CEA-02 IO-14 TAR-02 DRC-01 /193 W

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R 261430Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3210

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINGSTON 3676

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EAGR, XL, JM

SUBJECT: CUT IN US SUGAR QUOTA

REF: A) GEORGETOWN 1585; B) KINGSTON 3564; C) STATE 208368

1. SINCE OCTOBER 14 (REF B) JAMAICA DAILY GLEANER HAS GIVEN MINIMAL COVERAGE TO CUT IN US SUGAR QUOTA. HOWEVER, NEWSPAPER CARRIED EDITORIAL OCTOBER 25 WHICH BEGAN WITH REFERENCE TO STATEMENT MADE PORT OF SPAIN BY NORMAL GIRWAR, PRESIDENT CARIBBEAN CANE FARMERS ASSOCIATION,

THAT EXPLANATION REQUIRED FOR RIGID APPLICATION OF US SUGAR ACT TO COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN AS OPPOSED TO LACK OF QUOTA REDUCTION FOR PERU AND BOLIVIA IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES. EDITORIAL CONTINUED WITH FOLLOWING QUOTATION OF US EMBASSY GEORGETOWN STATEMENT (REF A): QUOTE THE US EMBASSY IN GEORGETOWN HAS IN PART ANSWERED CHARGES MADE IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN-AND CIRCULATED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THERE IN JAMAICA-ON THE REASON FOR THE PROPOSED QUOTA

REDUCTION. THIS ANSWER IS THAT THE REDUCTION IS BY WAY OF "RETROACTIVE REPRISAL" FOR COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN SPONSORSHIP OF THE CUBAN DIPLOMATIC CAUSE IN RECENT TIMES AND, MORE ESPECIALLY, FOR THE RIDE TO THE ALGIERS SUMMIT OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES WHICH PRIME MINISTER MICHAEL MANLEY AND PRIME MINISTER FORBES BURNHAM TOOK IN DR. FIDEL CASTRO'S PLANE. IT WAS POINTED OUT BY THE GEORGETOWN EMBASSY THAT THE US NOTE INFORMING THE CARIBBEAN OF THE PROJECTED CUTS IN THE QUOTA WAS DELIVERED BEFORE THE TRANS-ATLANTIC PLANE RIDE. UNQUOTE EDITORIAL CONCLUDED THAT FOR SAKE OF "CREDIBILITY" USDA SHOULD SUPPLY EXPLANATION FOR APPLICATION OF PENALTY TO COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN BUT NOT TO THE ABOVE NAMED SOUTH AMERICAN SUPPLIERS

2. TO OBTAIN EXPLANATION FOR MISREPRESENTATION EMBASSY GEORGETOWN STATEMENT EMBASSY OFFICER TELEPHONED EDITOR DAILY GLEANER WHO STATED "ANSWER" IN PARAGRAPH QUOTED ABOVE HAD ORIGINALLY READ "CHARGE" AND WAS IN FACT A TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR. EDITOR DID NOT OFFER TO ISSUE CORRECTION, BUT DID EXPRESS INTEREST IN OUR RESPONSE TO EDITORIAL WHEN AVAILABLE. FACT REMAINS EDITORIAL WILL BE WIDELY READ INCLUDING SENTENCE ATTRIBUTING TO EMBASSY GEORGETOWN STATEMENT THAT QUOTA REDUCTION WAS RETROACTIVE REPRISAL FOR CARIBBEAN ACTION ON CUBA AND THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY CONCURS WITH GEORGETOWN THAT DEPARTMENT'S EXPLANATION (REF C) NOT PARTICULARLY HELPFUL. WE WOULD WELCOME DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE AT HIGHEST APPROPRIATE LEVEL (REF B) TO USE LOCALLY IN PRESS AND INDISCUSSIONS WITH GOJ OFFICIALS AS NEEDED. IF IMPRACTICAL TO PROVIDE RESPONSE TO FIELD, SUGGEST DOING SO TO CARICOM EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON FOR SUBSEQUENT TRANSMISSION TO THEIR CAPITALS. OTHERWISE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES MOST AFFECTED BY QUOTA CUT WILL CONTINUE DRAW THEIR OWN CONCLUSIONS WITH DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON SUPPORT US INTERESTS IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. HEWITT
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